WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compactor for preparation of thermoplastic material comprising:

an approximately disc-shaped work surface rotatably connected to a rotary driven drive shaft and to a sleeve that surrounds the drive shaft, which can be operated in an axial direction with the drive shaft, whereby the sleeve is fitted with an exterior screw thread,

wherein the sleeve cannot rotate, and

wherein the sleeve is surrounded on its exterior by a rotatably mounted component that by means of an interior screw thread meshes with the exterior screw thread on the sleeve, whereby the rotatably mounted component is capable of operation in two directions by means of a driving mechanism.

2. The compactor of claim 1, wherein the rotatably mounted component is ring-shaped.

3. The compactor of claim 1, wherein the rotatably mounted component on its outer perimeter is suitable for connection with the driving mechanism by means of gear teething for one of a worm gear, gear wheel, and chain gear.

4. The compactor of claim 2, wherein the rotatably mounted component on its outer perimeter is suitable for connection with the driving mechanism by means of gear teething for one of a worm gear, gear wheel, and chain gear.

5. The compactor of claim 1, wherein the rotatably mounted component on an axial end face is suitable for connection with the driving mechanism by means of gear teething for one of spur gears and bevel gear wheels.

6. The compactor of claim 2, wherein the rotatably mounted component on an axial end face is suitable for connection with the driving mechanism by means of gear teething for one of spur gears and bevel gear wheels.